

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail, said polymeric sheath comprising a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath.
- 5 2. The polymeric sheath according to claim 1 wherein said second layer of polymer has a durometer greater than that of said polymeric sheath.
3. The polymeric sheath according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath is colored and said second layer of polymer is a different color than that of said polymeric sheath.
- 10 4. The polymeric sheath according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises internal cleats.
5. The polymeric sheath according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath comprises a delamination between said polymeric sheath and a portion of said second layer of polymer.
- 15 6. The polymeric sheath according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises at least an adhesive element.
7. The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is a liquid adhesive inserted between said polymeric sheaths and said second layer of polymer.
8. The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is a pliable gel
20 cap containing an adhesive located at said opening to said polymeric sheath.

9. The polymeric sheath according to claim 8 wherein said adhesive means is a pliable gel cap containing an adhesive activation agent.
10. The polymeric sheath according to claim 8 wherein said pliable gel cap is a wax cap containing an adhesive paste.
- 5 11. The polymeric sheath according to claim 1 further comprising a textured inner wall surface.
12. The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is an adhesive paste applied to a removable film tab applied to said opening of said polymeric sheath.
13. The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is comprised
10 of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with said polymer formulation used to form said polymeric sheath.
14. The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is an adhesive powder.
15. The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is an aerosol.
- 15 16. The polymeric sheath according to claim 14 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to tooling used in a dip molding process for forming said polymeric sheath.
17. The polymeric sheath according to claim 16 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to said tooling by electrostatic means.
18. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method
20 comprising:
a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath; and

5 c) Pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

19. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

10 b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

15 c) applying an adhesive means by spraying interior of said polymeric sheath with an atomized adhesive; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

20. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

20 a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

5 c) Activating said adhesive means by manually manipulating said polymeric sheath thereby rupturing a reservoir membrane located within said polymeric sheath; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

21. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

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a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with material used to form said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

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c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible reacting adhesive agent chosen from said plurality of component elements into said polymeric sheath; and

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d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

22. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an
5 internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with material used to form said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

10 c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible reacting adhesive agent chosen from said plurality of component elements directly onto said animal's toenail; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

15 23. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an
internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said
20 polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive powder means

adhered to the inside walls of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible liquefying agent directly onto said animal's toenail; and

5 d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

24. The method according to claim 23 further including the step of electro statically depositing said adhesive powder with said polymeric sheath.

10 25. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said
15 polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means adhered to the inside wall of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible liquefying agent on to said animal's toenail; and

20 d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

26. A method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an
5 internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said
polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means adhered to
the inside wall of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at
least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by removing a covering from said polymeric sheath
10 thereby, exposing said adhesive means;

d) manipulating said polymeric sheath in a manual manner that spreads said adhesive
to areas adjacent said opening; and

e) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.